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PATENT 1-303

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: **Weiner, Zhang, and Cohen**

Serial No.: **09/888,860**

Group Art Unit: **1636**

Filed: **June 25, 2001**

Examiner: **M. Marvich**

Title: **Expression Systems For Cloning Toxic Genes**

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DATE OF DEPOSIT: December 16, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

In response to the Office Action mailed June 14, 2002 in connection with the above-identified patent application, Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows. The period for responding to the Office Action has been extended, by enclosure of a petition and fee, to and through December 14, 2002.

In the Claims:

Please add new claim 17 and amend claim 8 to read as follows:

8. (Amended) The vector of claim 3 wherein said enhancer is selected from the group consisting of rous sarcoma virus enhancer, human actin enhancer, human myosin enhancer, human hemoglobin enhancer, human muscle creatine enhancer, viral enhancers, immunoglobulin enhancers, class II enhancers, and enhancers active in dendritic cells and macrophages.

17. (New claim) The vector of claim 8 wherein said enhancer is a cytomegalovirus enhancer or an Epstein-Barr virus enhancer.